

BETHANY UMC

107 S. Front St.
Milton, PA 17847
(570) 742-9796
bethany18coffice@gmail.com

Website:

bethanyumc-miltonpa.org

Sunday Worship:

Gathering of the Family of God: 10:30 am
YouTube: Bethany UMC Milton

PASTOR TRAVIS

670 Stamm Rd
Milton, PA 17847
717-968-2254 (Cell)
570-246-5830 (Home)
tallshouse@susumc.org

Upper Room – Now Available

November / December

Daily Bread – Now Available

October / November / December

Announcements:

Dates to Remember:

[Cheri, Adm Asst will be out of the office Dec 27 – Jan 3, 2024]

[No Leadership Team Meeting for December]

November 26th – 10:30 am – Gathering of the Family of God

[United Methodist Student Day – Special Offering]

11:45 am – Hanging of the Greens Luncheon & Nov birthday's and
Decorate the church for Christmas Season

December 3rd – 10:30 am – Gathering of the Family of God / Communion

[Deadline for Salvation Army Angel Tree Gifts] Unwrapped

December 10th – 10:30 am – Gathering of the Family of God

December 16th – 5 pm – 8 pm – Ugly Sweater Event @ Bethany, by Milton Winterfest

December 17th – [Note: No Morning Worship – Worship will be in the Afternoon]

2:00 pm – Worship / Carols & Cookies

December 24th – 10:30 am – Candlelight Christmas Service

December 25th – Merry Christmas [Office closed]

December 31st – 10:am – Gathering of the Family of God

11:45 am – Dec Birthday Celebrations / Cake



BETHANY UMC OFFICE
18 CENTER ST
MILTON, PA 17847

December
2023

Bethany United Methodist Church

“A Church with the Heart of Christ in the Heart of Milton”



Volume 10, Issue 12

December 2023

Milton's Good News

November– “At a Glance”

Looking back in November for Bethany, starting off the month of remembrance of our loved ones that passed for All Saints Day. Thank you to all who donated money & food items for the Thanksgiving in a bag, a barrel full again this year! Thank you to all the Veterans who fought for our freedom. The Annual Church Conference was held at St. Andrew's. Happy Thanksgiving to everyone and thankful for the blessings God gives us each day! Poinsettia orders taken and ending the month with Hanging of the Greens luncheon, celebrating November birthdays, and decorating the church for Christmas Season. Creative Landscaping finished the beautiful work at the church.

“Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel.” Isaiah 7:14

- Cheri Buss

Christmas Candlelight Service



Christmas Candlelight Service will be held at regular worship time on Sunday, December 24th – 10:30 am.

Bethany UMC wants to invite you all to celebrate our Savior, Jesus Christ! Bring your family & friends.



Special points of interest:

- “At a Glance” (pg 1)
- Christmas Candlelight Service (pg 1)
- Merry Christmsas (pg 1)
- Worship Schedule (pg 3)
- Hygiene Kits (pg 4)
- Angel Tree (pg 4)
- Ugly Sweater Event (pg 4)
- Udates on Coats Giveaway & Thanksgiving in a Bag & Trick or Treat (pg 4)
- Leadership Reports (pg 5)
- Volunteers Needed (pg 5)
- Our Prayer List (pg 5)
- Financial Stats (pg 6)
- Welcome New Member (pg 6)
- Member Address Change (pg 6)
- Fun Page (pg 7)

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from your Staff...

Pastor Travis Allshouse

Roderic Moore

Cheri Buss

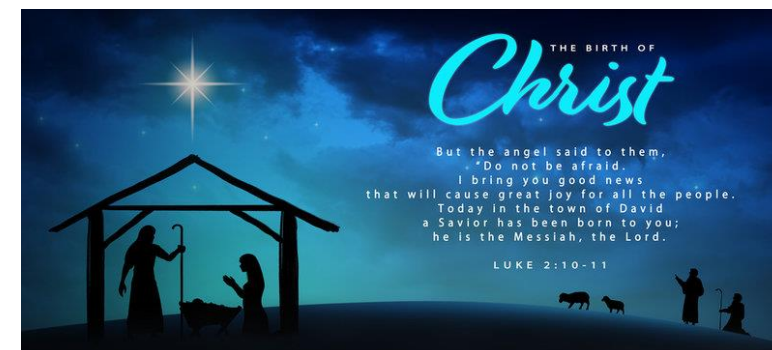
Karen Heimbach

Rich Handy

Bob Fitch

Nichole Taylor

*May the joy and peace
of Christmas be with you
all through the New Year.
Wishing you a
season of blessings from
heaven above.*





From Pastor Travis's Study



Sisters and Brothers,

Grace to you and peace in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ whose birth we are about ready to celebrate.

I love Christmas time. I love the gathering of families around Christmas trees, and the movies that are full of hope and wonder (NOT Hallmark Christmas movies). I love Christmas Eve worship where all my favorite hymns are sung. I love hearing the story of Jesus being born into a world of chaos with the promise of something better to come.

As I have gotten older, I have found myself becoming more and more like one of my favorite comic characters. I am a huge fan of the Peanuts comic strip and all of the movies. Two of my favorite characters in this comic are Charlie Brown and Linus. Every year at Christmas I find myself becoming more and more like Charlie Brown. I look around and see less and less about the real meaning of Christmas, and more and more about buying this gift or that really expensive item to prove how much I love somebody. More and more I find myself wanting to yell “Can somebody please tell me what Christmas is about?” as Charlie Brown does. Charlie has to go on a search to find the meaning of Christmas. I feel like for many of us, we do have to go on a search for the meaning of Christmas every once in a while.

It is Charlie Brown’s friend Linus who comes to his aid to help him begin to find the meaning of Christmas. Linus recites the story of Jesus being born as told by Luke. At the end of his recitation, Linus tells Charlie, this is the meaning of Christmas, referring to Jesus being born. In my search for the meaning of Christmas, I realized how many times I listened to the story of Jesus being born without really listening to it. Then one year something clicked in my head. The miracle of Christmas and the meaning of Christmas is found in the Incarnation. Incarnation is just a fancy theological word that means Christ becoming human. The miracle of Christmas is that God became a person just like me. Jesus was born into a messy world and came to live a messy life, and He died a messy death. All of these things we experience.

Incarnation was something new for the world when Jesus was born. No other ancient god lived like us. The Greek gods lived on Mt. Olympus distant from people. The pharaohs of Egypt were believed to be gods, and they owned slaves and had buildings made in their honor. In Jesus’ time, the Roman Emperor was considered a god and he live the most lavish life ever. The gods were nothing like people.

I realized we tell the story of Christ being born year after year because we know what the end of the story is. The end is not His death, but His resurrection and new life that is given to each one of us. We tell the story because we know that our God has lived among us and knows what we go through. God knows our worries and our troubles. God promises to be with us through our troubles.

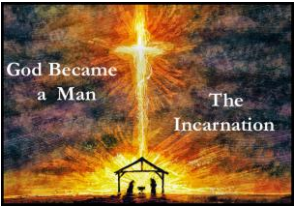
This Christmas season as we retell the story of the birth of Jesus, let us remember the miracle of the Incarnation and what that means for us. If you find yourself in a Charlie Brown mood, remind yourself of the promise that God is with you in the midst of your search. The meaning of the Incarnation has ended my search for the meaning of Christmas, may it end yours as well.

May God Bless you this Christmas season. May your days be filled with the Joy, Peace, Love, and Hope of God through Christ Jesus. And, May the wonder and miracle of Christmas fill your heart.

Have a Blessed Advent and Christmas Season.


The best is yet to be!!!

Pastor Travis



Fun Page

Name: _____ Date: _____



Joy to the World

DIRECTIONS: Find and circle the vocabulary words in the grid. Look for them in all directions including backwards and diagonally.

O	B	W	I	S	H	A	B	P	P	L	X	S	I	V	F	A	I	M
I	A	F	L	O	T	T	N	I	E	C	U	G	G	S	F	D	C	M
N	U	G	H	T	X	L	F	L	F	R	N	A	E	U	D	M	D	
F	T	N	E	V	D	A	E	F	V	D	A	I	M	L	O	S	M	K
A	G	I	C	G	T	A	M	Y	D	I	T	S	M	B	L	J	E	E
N	C	I	N	F	L	C	A	M	E	L	S	S	K	A	K	L	P	J
T	F	R	A	N	K	I	N	C	E	N	S	E	B	T	B	A	M	R
R	E	J	O	I	C	E	X	M	N	A	I	L	H	S	I	N	Y	Z
T	F	G	Z	H	D	S	T	A	L	D	E	B	Q	Y	R	G	R	U
Q	H	G	P	T	W	R	M	R	V	Y	F	B	H	I	T	E	R	E
T	Z	R	M	O	Z	R	A	Y	P	F	C	G	D	T	H	L	H	O
E	U	W	E	Q	J	D	F	I	Z	M	E	H	E	L	H	T	E	B
Q	K	H	V	E	X	X	W	F	D	C	F	K	L	N	X	I	E	D
H	L	H	Y	A	K	N	A	T	I	V	I	T	Y	U	E	J	L	G
Z	A	R	Y	A	N	I	H	L	P	I	S	X	I	R	O	Z	C	C
R	B	Y	L	I	Z	P	N	U	B	N	E	M	E	S	I	W	A	P
B	B	L	C	L	O	Y	D	G	P	U	T	A	E	Z	R	K	R	P
R	E	G	N	A	M	I	R	D	S	E	F	P	C	R	W	T	I	Q
Z	M	G	P	K	P	Z	K	T	T	A	H	C	R	Z	W	Y	M	I

ADVENT	INFANT	MYRRH
ANGEL	JESUS	NATIVITY
BETHLEHEM	JOSEPH	REJOICE
BIRTH	MAGI	STABLE
BLESSINGS	MANGER	STAR
CAMELS	MARY	THREE KINGS
FRANKINCENSE	MIRACLE	WISE MEN

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Bethany UMC Current Expense Income October 2023 Reports:

Financial Secretary's Report: October 2023

Date	Offering Envelopes	Plate Offering	Advent Offering	Poinsettia	Flower Fund	Fuel & Cool Fund	World Communion	Butler Trust Fund	Totals
10/01/23	\$826.00	\$15.00	\$	\$0	\$0	\$2,560.00	\$20.00	\$0	\$3,421.00
10/08/23	\$705.00	\$10.00	\$	\$0	\$42.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$1,265.43	\$2,422.43
10/15/23	\$3,151.00	\$10.00	\$	\$0	\$0	\$150.00	\$0	\$0	\$3,311.00
10/22/23	\$746.00	\$5.00	\$	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$751.00
10/29/23	\$851.00	\$5.00	\$50.00	\$20.00	\$0	\$200.00	\$0	\$0	\$1,126.00
Totals	\$6,279.00	\$45.00	\$50.00	\$20.00	\$42.00	\$3,110.00	\$220.00	\$1,265.43	\$11,031.43

Finance Report (October) Current Expenses In & Out):

October 2023

Total Income Received: \$11,031.43 + (\$2.18 Interest) + \$10,000 (Transfer from Fire Fund) = \$21,033.61

Total Expenses Paid Out: \$32,045.25

Average Attendance: 21

Fire Fund: Income Received: \$9.25 (Interest)

Total Expenses: (\$10,000 to General Account & Invoices Creative Landscaping & Lezzer)=: \$28,390

Balance \$103,630.70



Thank You
Bethany Milton UMC
For Giving 100% for Shares of Ministry in 2022
-Cynthia Moore-Koikio, Bishop
-Sandra Steiner Ball, Bishop
-Mark Knecht, Conference Treasure / Benefits Officer

*In the spirit of giving,
we thank you for
your generosity!*

Welcome New Member to Bethany UMC

Bethany UMC welcomes new member, Lindsay Thomas to the congregation. [Add her address to your church family directory.

Lindsay Thomas
Milton Towers, 50 Mahoning St, Apt 621, Milton PA 17847
570-380-0003



Member Address & phone number Change (Update Directory)

Ms. Edith Getz
1057 Point Township Drive
Apartment C
Northumberland, PA 17857
272-444-0050

Leadership Team Report...

Annual reviews of the church's investment portfolios are now complete, with Pruco having provided the Team with an excellent report at the October meeting (described in detail previously) and Hudock Moyer doing the same for us at our November meeting. Hudock's portfolio decisions and the overall performance of the Bethany investments under their management have been – and continue to be - quite acceptable, and no major changes are contemplated. We are comfortable that both companies, knowing as we do that much of their future decision-making will be dependent on many unforeseeable factors, can react quickly and efficaciously to changes and surprises in the financial landscape. We continue to trust them to direct and protect our funds with careful attention to the church's stated risk profile and its ongoing needs. Some of this is rocket science and some isn't, but praise be to those who know how to work advantageously within the difference.

The Team was shown two sets of architectural plans for the proposed awning over the Center St. ramp. It was decided to accept proposed structure #1. On that basis, we can now have the architect complete the drawings so that we can begin to seek grant funding for the actual construction. The search for a firm that's willing and able to build the awning will intensify, but it will almost surely not be in place before the severe weather of Winter '23 – '24 sets in and goes by.

We confirmed that the Christmas decorations that will have been placed around Bethany on November 26 will be dismantled and stored on January 7, 2024. This is in keeping with allowing for the entire Advent / Christmas period to pass, using Epiphany Sunday as the marker.

The Team wants all the members, constituents, and friends of Bethany to know that the church's November 19 Conference under District supervision went perfectly. Thanks are due to all who completed and submitted the necessary forms, and to Cheri Buss for her usual efficiency in marshaling and assembling the documentation.

As is the Leadership Team custom, it was confirmed that it will not meet in scheduled session in December. Such business as may arise before the Team's next regularly-scheduled meeting in January will be conducted on an ad hoc basis in the form of special gatherings or by phone or email.

Rod Moore

December Worship Schedule

SUNDAY MORNING
WORSHIP
SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 3rd – 10:30 am – Gathering of the Family of God – 1st Sunday of Advent
Communion will be offered
[Deadline for Salvation Army Children Gifts] Unwrapped

Sunday, December 10th – 10:30 am Gathering of the Family of God- 2nd Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 17th – 2:00 pm - Gathering of the Family of God Christmas Carols / Cookies
3rd Sunday of Advent
[Note: **No morning worship** – Will meet at 2:00 pm for a Christmas Carol Service]

Sunday, December 24th – 10:30 am Gathering of the Family of God / Candlelight Service
4th Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 31st – 10:30 am – Gathering of the Family of God



N.O.W. Hear This!.....

Hygiene Kits Ministry...



Bethany UMC is proud and excited to announce that we are collecting items again for personal hygiene packs ministry for children in our schools and community! Please put into the bins in the Fellowship Hall.

The items that we are accepting for the packs are:

Soap/shower gel, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, hand/body lotion, feminine products. The small individual, hotel-sized bottles are preferred but any donations are welcomed!

We thank you in advance for your support of this exciting ministry!!

Angel Tree....



Be an Angel to Someone for Christmas: Angel Tree

This year we will be 'adopting' 1 family with 3 children to give them a joyous Christmas season. A total of 20 tags (3 children) Angel Tree' ornaments from The Salvation Army will be on the Christmas Tree in the back of the sanctuary. There is one item per tag, so please take 1 or more tags to purchase gifts for the children. **Unwrapped gifts with Angel Tag**). Place gifts under the tree in the sanctuary.

Deadline for Angel Tree (children) gifts: Sunday, Dec 3rd, 2023. (Unwrapped with Angel Tag)

Ugly Sweater Event.....Dec 16, 2023

Ugly Sweater Christmas Party, December 16, 2023 at 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm

at Bethany UMC, 18 Center St, Milton PA 17847

Hosted by Milton Winterfest

Games, Snacks, Drinks and Ugly Sweater Contest –

Fun for the whole family!!!!



Updates: “Coat Giveaway” & “Thanksgiving in a Bag” & “Trick or Treat”

“Share the Warmth” Coat Giveaway, was not attended well this year, was raining. About 14 people (9 children & 5 adults) came to get coats and had to ordered (3) for children sizes we did not have.

Thank you Note from one of the Parents:

Thank you so much for Sawyer's new coat! It fits perfect and he loves it! I so appreciate your community outreach.

All the best,
Wendy



Thanksgiving in a bag, where approximately 14 meal bags of food and \$190.00 for turkeys were given to HandUp.

Thank you all who donated!!

Well done
Bethany!!!



Trick or Treat on Friday Milton Business Night we had about 25 children. On Halloween in the morning for the YMCA was outstanding, had about 50 children. Halloween evening for the community did not have many about 8 children.

Thanks for the candy donations!



Trustees Report

A relatively short Trustee report this month. Items completed or in process:

- Creative Landscapes completed the landscaping project at the church. Those that I've spoken to about the project are pleased.
- We received the notice from the water company reminding us we must have someone complete the annual test of the backflow preventer. The plumber has been contacted and has put us on their schedule.
- I've contacted Air Tech HVAC to schedule the fall service for the heating system at the church, Parish House and parsonage. He said we'll need to sign a new contract, but the price should remain the same.
- Hemmler and Camayd Architects have sketched out two possible options for the design of the roof over the ramp at the Center Street entrance. We'll need to make a decision regarding which design we prefer at our meeting.
- We've not heard anything from our insurance company related to the damage done to the railing at the north entrance on Front Street. Pastor Travis will follow up.

Submitted by Jamie Aurand

Leadership Reports...

All Committee/Leadership Reports need to be handed into the church office or pastor, by the second Sunday of each month. **For December they are due: Sunday, December 10th, 2023.** You can bring them into the church or email them to Pastor Travis at tallshouse@susumc.org. Thank You!

Volunteers for delivering Homebound Gifts & Cookies

Will need volunteers to help deliver poinsettias, gift & cookies to our beloved Homebound Members. A sign up will be on the table in the Fellowship Hall. Also volunteers to help bake some cookies for the Homebound Members and for the special worship on Sunday, December 17 for the Carols and Cookies Worship. Watch for more information in your bulletins.

Our Prayer List.....

Concerns:

Jessica – Surgery on November 17th and quick recovery.

Bob's sister-in-law- Coming home and continue healing and recovery.

Dot (Jimmy's friend) – Uplift her in prayer and her needs.

Rita S – Spot of cancer came back, prayers for another miracle / healing.

Lindsay – Health concerns and healing.

Israel – Mourn the loss / Peace & safety those caught in the middle of war.

Dylan & Kayden (Twins born premature, grandchildren of Elias' babysitter, Chrystal)

The Family of Lisa Derr (Kingdom Puppets) – Lisa passed away Oct 24.

Shirley Wesner – Continued prayers for healing.

Family/friends with Cancer: Rita S., Anna P, Florence Y, Mandy (Jim's friend); Rita (Karen's relative);

Kenny (Sally's friend). Alicia (Sally); Dot (Judy's neighbor); Denny (Travis' Uncle); Russ W; Bonnie R; Randy;

Dale R (Sally's friend), Tim (Friends of Allshouse).

Leaders / State / Nation / Church / Country / Ukraine / Gun violence / Canada and California wild fires / Flooding

Leadership Team: Cindy, James A, Rod, Bob F, James M, Dave W, Mike L, Dorothy, Pastor Travis.

